

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
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Rough Draft

Appropriations Committee
November 06, 2009

[AGENCY 93]

BILL WARNES: Senator Heidemann and members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is Bill Warnes, W-a-r-n-e-s. I am the chairman of the Nebraska Tax Equalization Review Commission. I did submit a letter basically agreeing to the Governor's recommendations. However, I'm here both to answer any questions that you might have and, too, we do show and should be showing a vacancy, and I'm concerned about how that might be interpreted, so. If there was a question, Senator, you have on that one, otherwise we're in agreement with the Governor's recommendation. [AGENCY 93]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Should we just cut to the chase and ask Senator Mello if he has a question? (Laughter) [AGENCY 93]

SENATOR MELLO: I would appreciate that, Chairman. It does...actually, it does show that according to the job vacancy report issued to the Legislature by the Department of Administrative Services, who answers directly to the Governor, states that you currently have one administrative assistant vacant position, but it does not detail a salary with that position. [AGENCY 93]

BILL WARNES: Let me first tell you that the report is accurate, however, it is a little misleading because we've never filled the position. It was a new position that was authorized at a salary of \$30,000 base salary. What the position was designed to do was to allow us to catch up with the resources that we had had approved which included moving to a new space, of course we didn't have much choice in that. But we moved to a new space and we're just in the process of doing it this week. It's been a very trying week. But, secondly, we have a new hearing room, we have a second hearing room. We need that administrative clerk to act as the recording clerk for the second hearing room. Now, our goal in TERC--and I'm going to refer to TERC, an acronym--is to process these appeals that we're getting. And you might be interested to

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know that this last year we had 1,700 come in for...in round numbers, for 2009. We think that probably will mean we'll have to deal with about 1,550. But what we have done is got...asked for a second hearing room. We've had that all approved. We have the space, it's all been outfitted. We're going to outfit it with furniture. We need that recording clerk so we can double up the hearings. And the hearings will principally be doubled up on the residential properties from Douglas County. If Sarpy County or other counties had residential, we would bring them in. And we'd be hearing them at twice the rate we were hearing them before because our goal it to try to hear all appeals within one year. Now, we're not there, (laugh) we're not there yet, but that's our goal. And I stated it publicly and so we're just going to have to work harder, but we need that recording clerk and the second hearing room. So that explains and gives you the salary. [AGENCY 93]

SENATOR MELLO: Okay. Thank you. [AGENCY 93]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Anyone else have any questions? Senator Nelson. [AGENCY 93]

SENATOR NELSON: Where is your new location now? [AGENCY 93]

BILL WARNES: Senator, we're on the...we went from the first floor in a little cubby hole to the sixth floor, and we're sharing that with mainly education, veterans affairs. [AGENCY 93]

SENATOR NELSON: That's down here on the Mall? [AGENCY 93]

BILL WARNES: Yes. Yes, sir. [AGENCY 93]

SENATOR NELSON: Okay. Thank you. Thank you. [AGENCY 93]

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SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Seeing no other questions, thank you. [AGENCY 93]

BILL WARNES: All right. [AGENCY 93]

SENATOR HEIDEMANN: Is anyone else wishing to testify on Agency 93? Seeing no one, we will close the public hearing on Agency 93, and open up the public hearing on Agency 41, the Real Estate Commission. [AGENCY 93]